12/31/2006

Honorable members:

It has come to my attention that an attempt is being made to expand the veil of cover enjoyed by attorneys. As it stands now, information on plumbers, physicians, nurses, heating contractors, etc is readily available for one to review. It is part of the public scrutiny that most all of us must stand up to.

The exception in our society seems to be attorneys. This attempted rule change, by the State Bar, in itself, can be viewed as an effort by the Bar to get even more favorable status and treatment for its' members, and the legal profession. Expanding this veil of cover, that these individuals currently enjoy, in regards to public oversight and review, is a slap in the face of the public, but this is something that could be expected. The tragedy and threat exists elsewhere.

The Judiciary Branch of government consists only of attorneys. Much of, if not most, of the Legislative Branch of government is made up of attorneys. Even the Executive Branch is headed by an attorney. So, with this lop-sided balance, is it in the best interest of our citizenry to potentially have so much of our State government protected from the same level of public scrutiny that most of us must be exposed to? Democracy is something that needs to be protected twenty-four hours out of the day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. We will not lose our government all at once. For those who want to lessen our ability to govern, as a democracy, it will be a little at a time. for very good and justifiable reasons: A rule change here and a rule change there.

Very few things are new in this world historically, just repeated. The Nazis used the same technique making some changes a little bit at a time, so the bigger picture always looked safe, but when all the little changes were added up it changed a democracy into something else.

This rule change may benefit the adopters indirectly or directly, but in the long run you and yours will be hurt from it. Please look beyond self interest and see the big picture when you consider this matter.

Respectfully,

James Bailey P.O. Box 21155 Livonia, Michigan 48150